

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS FAMILY WITH HOME IN LANGDON

"Home, sweet home"

Langdon, June 23, 2005. . . Russell T. Davis, administrator for housing programs in Washington, D.C., Clare Carlson, state director for USDA Rural Development in North Dakota and other staff members, today visited the home of Norman and Linda Economy and their family to personally congratulate and honor them in recognition of June as National Homeownership Month.

The visit was part of a series of events being held throughout the nation by USDA Rural Development in celebration of June as National Homeownership Month and President George W. Bush's initiative to increase homeownership opportunities.

"Homeownership is important to families and communities," said Carlson. "It provides a safe environment for children and stable rural communities. Today's event re-enforces Rural Developments commitment to helping families and individuals achieve the American dream."



The story of Norman and Linda Economy isn't any different than the story of any other American family wanting to own their own home, allowing more room for their family, and a yard that would provide a safe place for their children to play.

Having recently moved to Langdon, population 2,101, where Mr. Economy is the new pastor for the Assembly of God Church in Osnabrock, the family was soon able to join him in their new seven-bedroom home, a converted church.

Prior to moving to Langdon, the Economys were faced with several hurdles - the main being housing. With seven children and also being a foster family, the parsonage in Osnabrock was not quite roomy enough. Doing most of the home schooling for their children, Linda felt a larger and roomier house was necessary to accommodate the family's needs. After locating a home suitable to their family, the purchase was made possible through Rural Development's 502 direct loan program.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

“USDA has a 70 year history of assisting rural citizens achieve and maintain the dream of homeownership,” continued Carlson. “We appreciate the efforts of our partners helping to make those dreams come true.”



In honor of the Economy family, Rural Development’s long term commitment toward homeownership, and celebration of June as National Homeownership Month, a 7-foot Wealthy Apple tree, arranged by Jill Haakenson and donated by Northern Plains Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), was planted in the family’s yard.

The Wealthy Apple, or Malus, was developed in Minnesota. It is an early season variety, with large tart apples used for baking, sauces, or apple juice.

In Fiscal Year 2004, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$78 million dollars** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens.

USDA Rural Development is the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. It administers financial and technical assistance through a network of state Rural Development offices, various non-profit and educational institutional partners, and its national office.

Further information on these and other rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.